

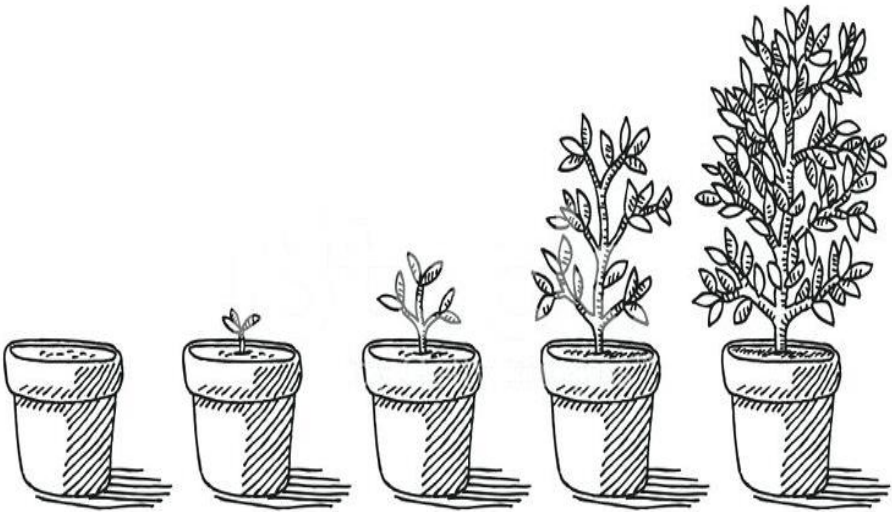
THE PARISH NEWS

Newsletter of the Milton Lutheran Parish

JULY 2019

*If Speaking Kindly
to Plants
Helps them Grow.....*

*Imagine what speaking
kindly to humans can do!!!*





Dear Partners in ministry at Milton Lutheran Parish:

I am writing to inform you that I have accepted a call as Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport IA. This call will be under the Formula of Agreement shared between the ELCA and PCUSA. I will remain rostered, of course in the ELCA.

My work with them will begin August 1, 2019. July 28, 2019 will be my last Sunday with you.

A big attraction of this call is that the congregation has an in-house performing arts and community theater group that has put on various productions for the past 27 years, and are well-supported by the community. That is rare for any congregation to have, and the actor in me just could not pass that up!

I have truly enjoyed and been blessed by our partnership together! It has been my joy to witness the Parish name and embrace exciting, compelling mission goals, and to come together more as a Parish.

I am optimistic that you will continue in that path, and that God will lead your next rostered leader to partner with you to make those goals come alive with excitement and celebration.

Thank you for all the ways you invited me into your lives and ministry. I will always be grateful for the prayers, love, friendship and support you blessed me with.

May the Spirit continue to guide our pathways in our respective ministries. Thank you for all you do!

With joy, best and blessings,
Pastor Mark Galbraith
Intentional Interim Pastor





Quiet Communion

For those who are unable to make the regular Sunday worship services at Trinity or Christ there will be a weekly quiet communion at Christ. This will be every Wednesday afternoon at 3:00pm throughout the year. Come join us!



Free Community Meals 2019 Community Meal Schedule

Sunday, August 11th

Sunday, October 13th

Sunday, December 8th



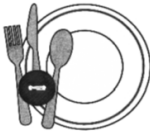
Upcoming Book Group

Book Group will be back on
September 9th!

Have a great summer!

**Community Meal
and
\$20 Backpack Voucher Give-Away
(for children grades K - 12th)**

**August 11th
5pm**



at



**Christ Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton**

**Child must be present to receive
the backpack voucher.**

**Voucher can be redeemed
at
Wal Mart**

Free Backpack Give-Away
August 11th
at
Community Meal

We will be collecting the following items
for the backpacks:
(Place in box in the narthex.)

JUNE - #2 Pencils

Colored Pencils

Mechanical Pencils

Small pencil sharpeners

Pens

Ruled Subject Notebooks

JULY - Crayons

Markers

Erasers

Glue Stick

Ruled Subject Notebooks



STEWARDSHIP



Time ♣ Talent ♣ Treasure

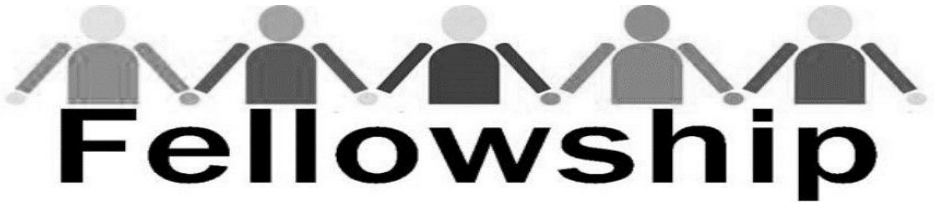
1. The stewardship team would like to thank those who contributed to the children's clothing give away at the free community meal in June. We plan to offer the remaining clothing items at the August 11, 2019 meal as many children attend the August meal when we give away backpacks with school supplies.
2. In June, we will be collecting the following items for the August backpack give away: #2 pencils, mechanical pencils, colored pencils, pens, small pencil sharpeners, and ruled subject notebooks. In July, we will be collecting: crayons, markers, glue sticks, erasers, and ruled subject notebooks. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex at Trinity or Christ.
3. A fresh food pantry to supplement the non-perishable food provided by the Milton Food Bank at Hand Up was proposed by Claire Weisner, as her college honors project, and was approved by the council. The Milton Food Bank has started a Fresh Food Initiative and is in need of help to meet those needs.
Claire will be working with the food bank and the parish stewardship team to form relationships with local

grocers and butchers for fresh food donations. To increase the number of volunteers to help with food distribution between 9 AM and 3 PM on the first and second Wednesday of each month, members of the National Honor Society and Student Government at Milton Area High School, other community organizations/churches, and members of Milton Lutheran Parish will be asked to help with food sorting and distribution.

A future goal is the creation of a church garden to provide fresh vegetables for the food bank. The longer term goal would be having a greenhouse for yearlong production of fresh vegetables that would be built by the building trades students at the high school and managed by the FFA members. If we would be awarded an ELCA Domestic Hunger grant, for which an application has been submitted, it would be used for this purpose. The final step would be to partner with another organization to offer recipes and cooking classes to teach people how to prepare healthy, easy recipes using the fresh food.

4. Plans are underway for a picnic meal for residents at the Towers, Centre Town Apartments, and Mahoning Acres on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 8, 2019. Once again we will be building a parish float for the Milton Harvest Festival Parade on September 21, 2019. More details will follow in the August newsletter.





Parish Fellowship Ministry

What is a Fellowship Ministry?

Opportunities to get together with other individuals, couples and families of the parish for activities to help get to know each other better as well as for inviting new visitors or new members to join us too.

Activities can be anything from dinners, picnics, trips, and/or recreational gatherings, whatever the group decides they have an interest.

We first want to know who would be interested in being part of this ministry and then we will schedule a meeting to decide the types of activities that most interest people and how often we would want to have these activities.

If you are interested in becoming part of our Fellowship Ministry, please sign up in the narthex.

If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact:

Penny Coup - 570- 412-3926 or pcoup72@gmail.com

Or

Linwood Hill - 570-742-7734 or lrhill20@verizon.net



SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 14-15, 2019

The 32nd annual assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod was held on June 14-15, 2019 at Susquehanna University. Pastor Mark, Lynnette Weisner, Rick Coup, Mindy Bartholomew, Donna Spear, and Rich Handy served as our delegates. In addition to the business components on the first day, these are a few of the things we learned about: opportunities for advocacy (Lutheran Advocacy in Ministry in Pa.), mission trips and disaster relief in a partnership between the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Northumberland Presbytery, interfaith worship through LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic), and the Christmas at Sea gift bags for the Seafarers International House. Our synod alone gave 670 gift bags last year, which was one fourth of the total bags disseminated to merchant marines who could not be home with their families for Christmas!

On day 2 we broke into conferences to discuss what we as a conference (ours is the Buffalo Valley Conference made up of churches in Union and Upper Northumberland counties) could do together to implement the synod's strategic mission plan, the resources needed, and what each of us could do to make the plan successful. As we learned about many wonderful outreach programs by other conference congregations, we identified the need to have better communication between congregations within our conference to share this information;

the need for more inter-congregation activities to build relationships, to promote Lutheran unity, and support our ministries; and to better identify and develop leaders in our congregations. Various ideas were discussed such as a conference newsletter and establishing regular meetings for lay members of the 15 congregations to meet to organize and plan activities within the conference. Some examples of activities were making Christmas at Sea gift bags, a pulpit exchange, a parishioner exchange where several members would worship in one another's congregations on selected Sundays. **If you would like to be a part of the first lay person grassroots planning process for the Buffalo Valley Conference, please join us on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 6 PM at United in Christ, West Milton (the Twin churches).**





Worship Helpers

Trinity Lutheran
Month of July

Head Usher:

Lynnette Weisner

Ushers:

Ken Gaugler

Bonnie Gaugler

Crystal Gnidovec

Linwood Hill

Reader:

Cindy Coup

Communion Assistant:

Karen Fry

Acolytes

Chance Benshoff



Worship Helpers

Christ Lutheran

July 7

Ushers: Nancy Mensch, Donna Riccio
Acolyte/Asst: Rose Handy
Lector: Rose Handy
Server: Rose Handy, Rich Handy
Prayer Team Minister: Rose Handy

July 14

Ushers: Don Fisher, Peggy Fisher
Acolyte: Penny Ulmer
Lector: Nancy Walters
Server: Penny Ulmer(Asst.), Kay Dunn
Prayer Team Minister: Mae Jones

July 21

Ushers: Tonya Wargo, Nancy Mensch
Acolyte/Asst: Kellie Brouse
Lector: Kellie Brouse
Server: Donna Spear,
Prayer Team Minister: Mae Jones

July 28

Ushers: Don Fisher, Peggy Fisher
Acolyte: Penny Ulmer
Lector: Nancy Walters
Servers: Penny Ulmer, Kay Dunn
Prayer Team Minister: Kellie Brouse



New Joint Worship Service **Schedule 2019**

Due to the regular low attendance during the summer months the congregation councils voted to hold joint services for the summer. The services for the month of July will be at Christ. Services for August will all be at Trinity. All services will start at 9:30am.

Jul 7 – Christ
Jul 14 – Christ
Jul 21 – Christ
Jul 28 – Christ
Aug. 4 – Trinity
Aug.11 – Trinity
Aug.18 – Trinity
Aug.25 – Trinity
Sep 1 – Christ
Sep 29 – Trinity
Oct 6 – Christ
Nov 3 – Trinity
Dec 1 – Christ
Dec 29 – Trinity

Stewardship of our civic freedoms

As Americans celebrate the birthday of our nation, we give thanks for our civic freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, due process, a speedy trial, voting and many more. Our freedom has made us the envy of much of the world.

But as with any valuable gift, our civic freedoms can be abused, neglected or underappreciated to the point where, if we aren't careful, they hardly matter anymore.

Lutherans are guided by Martin Luther's insight that we are simultaneously called to be responsible citizens of "two kingdoms" – first, of God's spiritual realm, and second, of earthly governments of people and laws. The synergy of our "dual citizenship" directs us to be good stewards of our civic freedoms.

Freedom of speech: Yes, even hateful speech and lies are protected under our Constitution, but Christians avoid them in obedience to Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves and by the Eighth Commandment, which Luther explains in *The Small Catechism*: "We should fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations." We steward this freedom by speaking honestly and insisting others do, too.

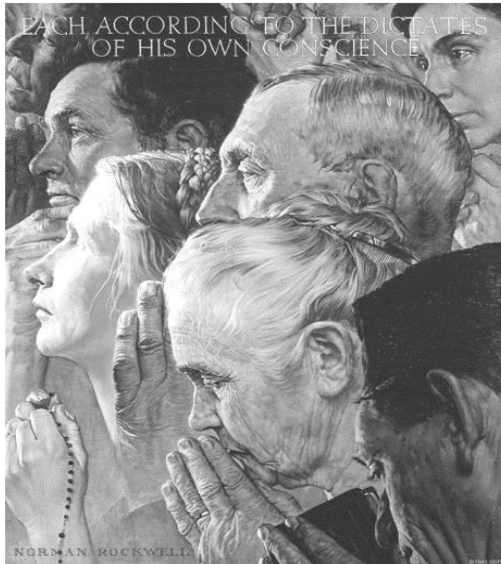
Freedom of religion: Millions of people across the globe, including Christians, face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. We dare not take our freedom for granted, but exercise it with joy and defend the rights of others to follow their own consciences.

Freedom from illegal prosecution: Our guarantees of due process in legal, criminal and civil proceedings uphold justice and guard against government misconduct. It works imperfectly, as do all human systems, but as good stewards we fight for justice and the rights for all.

Freedom of self-governance: With its interconnected checks and balances, our three-branch system of government provides stability, accountability and flexibility for change. It's a great system, but it requires us to be informed and involved. We steward this freedom by participating in political processes, voting and insisting on honest government that works for our interests.

This month, as citizens of both God's spiritual realm and the United States of America, we renew our commitment to be good stewards of the freedoms we are privileged to have.

--Rob Blezard





Public Office Hours – 8am-3:30pm

Trinity- Mon.-Fri.- mornings

Christ- Mon.-Fri.- afternoons

Newsletter articles are due in office by the **15th of each month** (unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin).

Deadline for the next newsletter July 15. Any items received after the 15th of the month will not be in the newsletter.

Please **e-mail** Donna at **driccio@christlutheranmpa.org** or **tlcmilton@ptd.net** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles or drop them off at either church.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Website – www.christlutheranmpa.org

1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Church Phone- 570-742-7473

Church E-mail – driccio@christlutheranmpa.org

Pastor Mark Galbraith -pastormarkpg@gmail.com

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA. 17847

Church Phone-570-742-4601

Church E-mail- tlcmilton@ptd.net

Pastor Mark [Galbraith-pastormarkpg@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkpg@gmail.com)